

Writer's Note

Several months ago I endured on a path that never lasted, one to tell the story of the Roman Empire, from the point of the House of the Julii, in newspaper form.

Being on Tumblr, ideally the plan was for each post to be an update of the affairs of the day, told in the lens of the local propagandist, adding their flair to every event and note in the Julii's domain, as well as that of the Roman Empire. Alas, this plan did not come to be, and although a few years were recorded, only the first half of the year was posted.

There may have a reason, aside from laziness, why this project stopped, and that is being the inefficient nature of this work. 17 posts were made throughout the course of that Tumblr account's lifespan, *all* are made within ***half*** an year. Had this continued, more than 10 posts would be made per half-year, and this would be a trend that would expand exponentially later on. It would be assumed that by 240 BC, more or less 40 posts would be made, and even double that number by 210 BC, when the Roman Empire would finally be made.

Such a way is absolutely unsustainable, and it stands to reason that it's a blessing in disguise why this project died. The mind feared the task, and for once, for good reason this time.

Alas, a life flies away, but the written words remain. This work is dedicated to preserve said written words, to not make the effort go in vain. May this work be of benefice and delight to your reading eyes, wherever the benefice and delight may be found.

A Proclamation from the Senate - "Take the settlement of Segesta!"

[Summer, 270 BC]

News has arrived from the high councils of Rome: a mission for the house of the Julii. Their house is not alone in this task; it is rumored by people that the Senate has sent similar missions to the other houses in charge of their respective provinces.

The message was read later that day by the governor of Arretium, Lucius Julius, honored and respected son of the *pater familias*, Flavius Julius. "In the wisdom of the Senate, we ask you to take the settlement of Segesta for the glory of the Republic and its people.", the message said. Following this, Lucius added that Flavius will ensure the Senate's will be done. Cheers were followed.

The settlement of Segesta lies northwest of Arretium, and is governed by barbarians. They are not the hated Gauls, but rather a distinct people by the way they speak and act. Hopes are high that they will be subjugated into the fold, and that our armies prevail against their blood.

March to Segesta! - Support our Cohorts!

[Summer, 270 BC]

The drums of war have been rung; the orders are confirmed: A small army composed of two hastati cohorts and one group of velites under their general Vibius Julius has been tasked by his father Flavius Julius to subjugate the barbarians living in the settlement of Segesta. In no time wasted, reports surface that they are on the march.

As fellow Romans, it is best to support them on their endeavors, and pray to the gods for a quick and decisive victory.

Victory assured at Segesta

[Summer, 270 BC]

Heed not, citizens, nor worry too much: the Ligurians have been put to the fold!

The village of Segesta has proven itself to be a rather speedy battle, for according to reports, they are so primitive and lacking in any manners of a civil society that they had not even a fortification to speak of, removing the burden of our troops to build siege weapons. Defending the village are a group of their peasants and a more disciplined group of warbands. Leading these men is their bright-haired chief, Belenus.

The details of the battle were simple, and tested the meddle of the young Vibius Julius, for this is his first. He is, however, confident in his abilities to do so. He did his job admirably, and the barbarians, afraid of the resolve of our warriors, routed and gave themselves in, preferring so to spare their lives than throw them away needlessly. Honorable as he is merciful, Vibius Julius ordered his men to cease the fighting, and apprehend the remaining men. When asked on his tactics, Vibius Julius said as much:

"I sent my men on the march and detached one of my cohorts to my right to flank the barbarians at their village, as there was an opening there. On my front, my men marched and threw their pila at the peasants defending their town hall, adjoined by my velites. I heard commotion, and I later was told that their chief charged at my right-flank detachment of cohorts. It is there that my men had to fight them. Even when their chief was dead, they still fought. I knew I had to push and ordered my hastati to slaughter the peasants, and my velites to retreat. Their duty is done, and they will be thanked for that. I then charged, and finished them off, which is when I saw that the warband finally retreated. I didn't even need to order my cohorts who took the centre; they charged and surrounded them. It was there where they surrendered, and I ordered my men to stand down."

Belenus, the chief of the tribe, had died in the fighting, killed by one of our hastatus by the sword. Following the takeover of the city, in an additional

measure of mercy, as well as a political acknowledgement to the Senate's orders to take it, the people of Segesta were not enslaved, only accepting a gift of 50 denarii from the defeated.

In regards of casualties, 365 Ligurians have been killed, and by the end, 116 warbands have been spared after the battle. On our end, there have been 54 casualties.

Let it be known, lectors, that with this, comes responsibility. Although these barbarians are not Roman, it will be hoped that every effort will be made to make them act as such, at the very least.

[Battle Report] - Battle of Segesta, 270 BC

Vibius Julius - 533 combatants, 365 enemy casualties, 487 remained

Cap. Brennus - 481 combatants, 54 enemy casualties, 116 remained

Obituary - Captain Belenus



In the summer of 270 BC, while defending his village from the might of the Roman armies under Vibius Julius, Belenus died in battle, slain by one of the hastatus. He was 20 years old.

Born in 290 BC, not much is known about him. The surviving warriors, all former warbands of his, tell that he is so vicious that he survived an entire winter, and slain a wolf in that order. He only became chief following the passing of the last one, an elder by the name of Morirex, one year ago. He was a good leader, they claimed, as well as beautiful to the womenfolk.

While the triumphs are held at home in Arretium and Ariminum, where true Romans belie, and the Ligurians none the resentful for a worthy battle, they are sure to mourn his short yet respected rule as their chief.

Belenus (290 - 270 BC)

A Gracious Reward From The Senate

[Summer, 270 BC]

Good news!

The Senate has heard of the acquisition of Segesta, and from the halls of the Curia Hostilia, celebrated the victory, and bestowed appreciation for the Julii above the rest. As promised, they have given the house of the Julii their reward: 10000 denarii.

Such gracious reward will no doubt be used to further invest in more infrastructure projects as well as any future martial recruitments, a vision that is championed by Lucius Julius. "Our treasury has multiplied threefold! The path of the Roman Republic is set for greatness." he states in a speech.

Efforts Made to "Civilize the Ligurians", Construction of Governor's House In Segesta Begins

[Summer, 270 BC]

Stationed in his camp northwest of Arretium, Flavius Julius made a short exhortation on the progress of Segesta, ending it with the following: "Bring to them the Roman ways! They are part of us now, but in order to do that, every effort should be made to civilize the Ligurians under our manner."

No time is wasted in this command, as this morning, Vibius Julius ordered the beginning of the construction of a governor's house in Segesta, and put the locals as well as his army to the task. This example of basic Roman engineering is expected to "inspire the locals", as Vibius has put it, and be a constant reminder of their station.

In another effort for the house of the Julii and the political elites to better manage the new lands, the settlement has also been officially renamed to Segesta Tigulliorum. Although there are many Ligurian tribes, all having backed down, the village of Segesta in particular had once been ruled by the Tigulli, and as such, the new name reflects the locals of the region. "I do

not expect our fellow Romans to call it that in full. This is solely for administrative purposes.” Lucius Julius adds.

Flavius Julius Marches North, Plans Against The Gauls

[Summer, 270 BC]

Flavius Julius, de facto holder of the lands north of the Roman Republic, has recently sent the army under his command north of Arretium, to the proximity of the lands of the Gauls, in the latest move to plan a military campaign against the Gauls. “The time is now to prepare for battle against those stinking Gauls. I am tired of laying around, as they wander about, scheming behind our backs. By the gods, they will be done for.” Flavius Julius said in a speech.

It is no secret that Flavius Julius has no love for the Gauls to the north, and how his grandfather was blinded after a battle with them. Now the lines are set; the military barracks at Arretium are currently recruiting for new men to be ready for his upcoming campaign.

Tax Hike Announced On Segesta, Arretium, Ariminum

[Summer, 270 BC]

Citing the “war effort” and the “public goods of the Republic”, Lucius Julius announces a massive tax hike across the lands of Liguria, Etruria and Venetia. Prior to this effort, it was reported that various high political leaders have discussed the merits of raising the tax hikes across all of the cities and their vicinities.

Regardless of the benefits, the tax hike is expected not to be welcomed fondly by businesses and the regular people, and in the entirety of the Republic. While the houses of the Scipii and the Julii, as well as the lands of

Rome are rumored to maintain their taxes as is, the lands north will have an unsavory financial reputation indeed.

Brave Cohorts Leave Arretium To Flavius's Army

[Summer, 270 BC]

Two hastati cohorts, who have long been stationed in Arretium, under the written orders of Flavius Julius, have departed to join up with his army, in preparation for a campaign against the Gauls. It is of great benefice that we wish our countrymen good luck and fortune in the coming battle to come.

Shrine to Jupiter To Be Erected in Arretium

[Summer, 270 BC]

All across the Republic, talks and speculations of buildings to be built are all around. In Arretium, the talks are rumors no more. Lucius Julius today has ordained that construction of a shrine to Jupiter begin as soon as possible. He cites the victory of Segesta as the primary reason for his decision-making, stating that it was under the auspice of Jupiter that a victory was graciously attained that day, and that "It is only fair to honor him in this manner."

Expectations are hopeful that it will be finished soon.

Quintus Julius Orders "Upgrade" Of Local Barracks

[Summer, 270 BC]

Quintus Julius, governor of the city of Ariminum, today has ordered an upgrade of the city's barracks, and has stated that funds will be allocated as to better accommodate the training of hastati cohorts.

Although Ariminum does have a barracks, officials have widely stated that it is only fit to train simple vigiles. "The barrack as it stands now is terribly

equipped to train a proper soldier. They create shields with wood not to our standard, spears fit to beat a slave and not a Gaul, and have little dealings with our local armourers.”, Ninnius Celer, a local official said. “That is why it is in need of improvement and fund allocation, especially given Flavius’s call to action.”

As construction goes underway, it also bears to report the nature of Quintus Julius as the governor, for it is known very well by the people he governs that he is hardly an administrator at heart.

“He is a man of Mars, not of Jupiter.”, Publius Laelius, a businessman said. “He would rather be on the field than governing this town all day. Thank the gods the opportunity may soon come to him.”

The Vicious Gauls To The North

[Summer, 270 BC]

Reports have come in north of the Republic, where the Gauls dwell, and after some discussions between the military captains, have granted permission to reveal the composition of their armies, as to better inform our citizens of the upcoming threat.

North of Arretium lies a Gallic village which they call Mediolanum, where their apparent prince by the name of Eporedorix dwells. He is accompanied by two groups of warbands, as well as a band of cavalry. North of Ariminum is another Gallic village of which, above the Po river, is to be called Patavium. There does not dwell any leader to our knowledge, except for two groups of warbands and one band of cavalry.

These reports may elevate hopes of a quick victory against the Gauls, but better military minds extoll caution; we must be properly ready before engaging in a campaign against these barbarians.

Diplomatic Missions Ahead?

[Summer, 270 BC]

The art of martial practice is what our politicians love aside from infrastructure, but diplomacy is also an important trait to possess. Sextus Antio, the chosen ambassador of the house of the Julii, has been given permission to represent the affairs of the Republic to the other kingdoms, and has been seen going north. He has been given one stipulation, however, and that is to reject any and all deals from the Gauls, under orders of Flavius Julius, for reasons obvious to those who know.

Nonetheless, it is good for our citizens to wish him the best of luck in his travels, for who knows what dwells in the lands unknown.

Suspicious Movements From The North Reported By Spies

[Summer, 270 BC]

New reports have come in from the lands north of the Republic, although our informants have little to offer on any clear details. However, they are worth informing, as is our duty to inform, for the safety and security of the Roman civilian.

According to the reports, several army movements have been noted. From the Gallic guards in Mediolanum seen leaving their home, to a surprisingly new army moving west of Patavium led by a “commander of significant importance to their people”, not part of those who are within the walls of said village itself, the report eventually ends with a question as to where they have moved to at all.

Lest anyone speculate and cower in fear, it only reaffirms in mind that Flavius Julius must be prepared for any and all surprises. The armies initially reported in the Gallic territories, after all, are not what they seem.

The Republic Wages War On The Greeks!

[Summer, 270 BC]

Under the directions of the leader of the Scipii household, Cornelius Scipio, an army under the command of one of his sons, Quintus Scipio, marches south onto the *Sicilia Graecus* and sets siege to the city of Syracuse, led by a high-class governor under the name of Dionysos of Sparta, thus de facto declaring war on the Greek city-states. To add further confirmation onto these events, it is rumored that the leaders in Greece have deemed this affair “an act of aggression that must be punished by the tip of our spear”. On the side of Rome, the Senate has set the stage, with religious rituals and preparations, to officially declare war against them.

Despite the political differences, it is to our reasonable measure that we hope for the best in our countrymen against the Greeks.

Preparation Made In Apulia On Behalf Of The Brutii

[Summer, 270 BC]

South of the lands of which the house of the Julii are responsible for, the house of the Brutii are also taking the opportunity set by the house of the Scipii to plan their own campaign. According to the happenings in Tarentum, an army under the command of Amulius Brutus has been sent to the fleet under the command of a certain Marcus.

Info on where they may be headed is scant. Although some deem it obvious they will be spearheading the campaign against the Greeks on their own holy turf, another land is much more likely: the lands of Epirus. This is attested by Marcus Decimus, a military official. “It is simply the perfect land for them. The land of Epirus is not claimed by the Greeks, and thus would serve as a foothold for further incursions against the Greeks and all the barbarians that stand there. The people there are noted for their docile and amiable nature, of which makes them unlikely to revolt. Although it would be reasonable at first glance for them to go straight for the lands of the Greeks, the payback will be immense, and will prove to make further incursion difficult.”

Senatorial Diplomat Visits Arretium

[Summer, 270 BC]

A visit from the most esteemed diplomat and public official of Rome, Flavius Nepos, graces upon the landowners and slaves near Arretium. Lauding his intentions to serve as a diplomat on lands ahead, lands of which we are not informed where, he is expected to take a rest there.

In the meanwhile, the local officials L. Nerus Cresces and P. Septimius Sabinus are promoting festivities to honor the esteemed Flavius Nepos, set to last at least 3 days, and expected to have improvised gladiator matches and free grain.